

# **Publicly-Funded HIV Prevention Counseling and Testing in Texas, 1999- 2000**

A Synopsis of African American Men



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## Highlights

- 32,932 African American men were prevention counseled in 1999 and 2000, which accounts for approximately 14% of the publicly funded HIV initial counseling sessions for that time period.
- 94% of clients chose to test for HIV, with 92% of African American men choosing to test confidentially.
- For every 100 tests, there were 2.6 positive tests reported for African American men in 1999 and 2000. For men testing confidentially, the positivity rate was 2.4 positives / 100 tests, compared with 4.6 positives / 100 tests for African American men testing anonymously.
- Over three-quarters of African American men counseled in Texas fall into the risky heterosexual risk category (F/MS).
- Positivity rates are similar for M/MS/IDU and M/MS risk categories, nearly 11 positives / 100 tests, but positivity rates are significantly lower for all other categories, less than 3 positives / 100 tests.
- The 20-29 year old age group had the largest proportion of tests (31%), while the 30-39 year old group had the highest proportion of positive tests (42%). Generally, positivity rates increased with age for African American men.
- Over twice as many African American men prevention counseled reported recent STDs than were reported for all men from other racial/ethnic group categories prevention counseled in Texas. Since a history of STD is associated with greater risk for acquiring HIV, this would suggest that prevention counseling efforts by organizations who serve African American men are relatively effective at providing prevention counseling to men at highest risk.
- The proportion reporting involvement in sex-trade who presented for testing at publicly funded HIV testing sites was 40% higher than reported overall for men. Similar to above, this may indicate good outreach efforts by organizations serving African American men.
- Approximately 55% of African American men IDU indicated they shared injection equipment in the past year. This is significantly lower than observed overall for non-African American men in Texas, 70%.

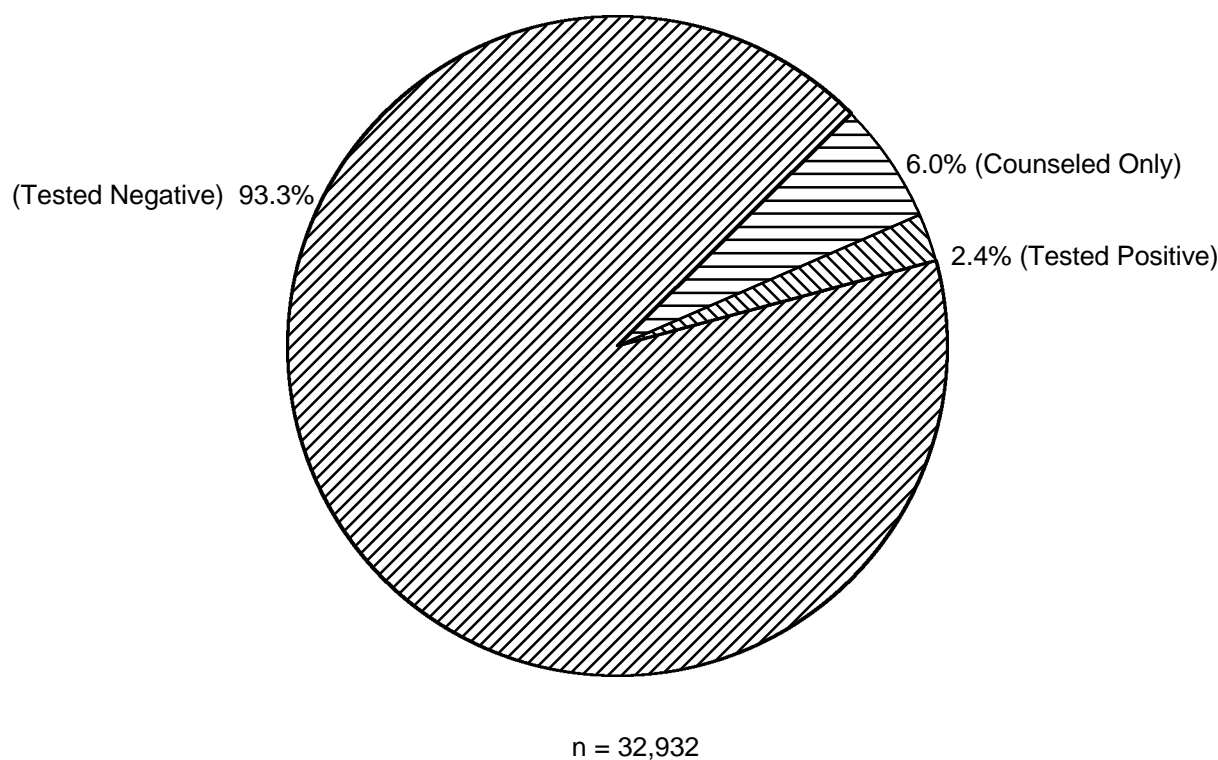
**Introduction:** To effectively prevent transmission of HIV in Texas, prevention planners and providers need to know specific information about the morbidity and risks for HIV transmission in at-risk and traditionally “under-served” populations. Often, when reporting on these risks and morbidity using traditional epidemiological approaches to analysis and categorization, some sub-populations of interest are marginalized, due to the small sample size of the specific high-risk population, or due to comparison of simple case counts with other larger at-risk populations. This report is an effort to examine the demographics and risk behaviors of one of these populations by-itself: African American men. This information was collected by the HIV Prevention Counseling data system implemented on January 1, 1999 and contains information provided by TDH funded contractors for the calendar years 1999 and 2000 and for the City of Houston contractors beginning on April 1, 2000.

**A note about Mode of Exposure:** Mode of exposure is a way of dividing risk behaviors based on the likelihood of transmitting HIV while engaging in that behavior. During HIV counseling sessions, clients discuss the kinds of risk behaviors they have engaged in *during the past year*. The counselor, following the session, marks all appropriate risk behaviors for that client on a Texas HIV Prevention Counseling reporting form. For men, we have collapsed risky behaviors into five mode of exposure categories. Because many clients report more than one risk behavior, clients fall into a mode of exposure based on the riskiness of the behaviors reported. The following mode of exposure categories are listed in order of risk of transmission of HIV, beginning with the riskiest behavior. These modes are: men who have sex with other men and inject drugs (M/MS/IDU), men who have sex with other men (M/MS), injecting drug user (IDU), risky heterosexual behavior (sex while using non-injection drugs, sex in exchange for drugs or money, a previous STD diagnosis, and sex partner at risk for HIV/AIDS -- F/MS), other exposures not identified above (other) which also includes counseling sessions where the client has declined to provide risk information.

### *General Information on Counseling Sessions Performed In Texas Between 1999 and 2000*

- Of the 32,932 initial counseling sessions for African American men, 30,955 Men chose to test for HIV (Figure 1).
- 92% of these HIV tests were performed confidentially (28,479 tests) and 8% were performed anonymously (2,476 tests).
- 784 tests were positive, for a positivity rate of 2.6 positives / 100 tests.
- The number of tests accounts for 14.5% of publicly funded HIV tests, and African American men account for 27.2% of the positive tests reported through publicly funded prevention counseling in Texas. This suggests a significant burden of HIV infection in the African American male population in Texas.

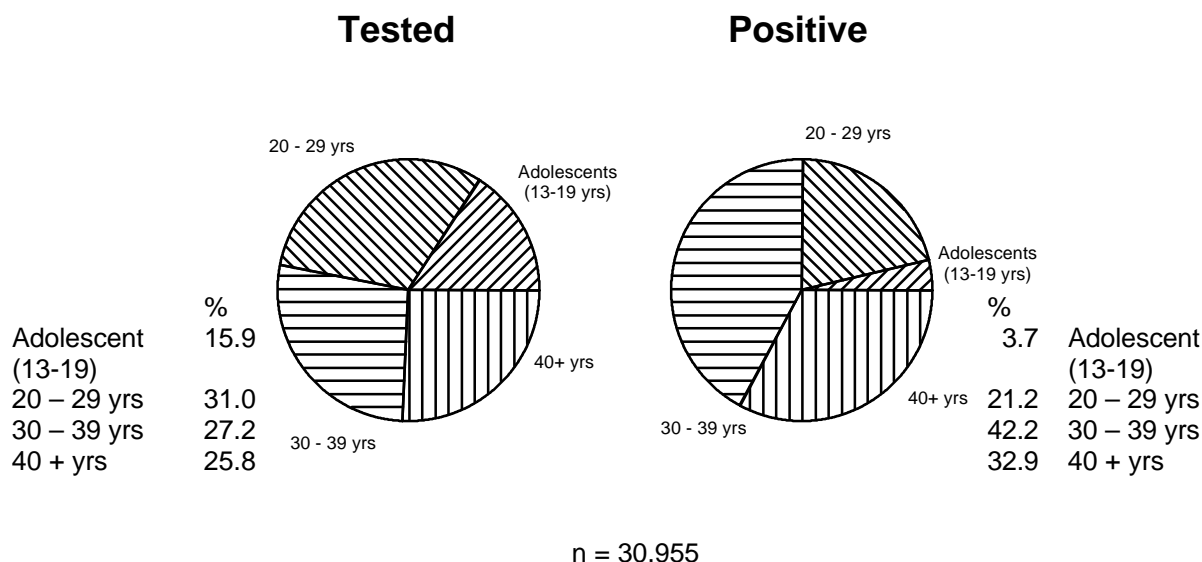
Figure 1. Proportion HIV Prevention Counseling sessions resulting in Counseled-only, Negative or Positive Tests for African American Men in Texas 1999-2000.



## Profile of Counseled African American Men: Number of Tests and Number of Positive Tests by Age Group and Testing History

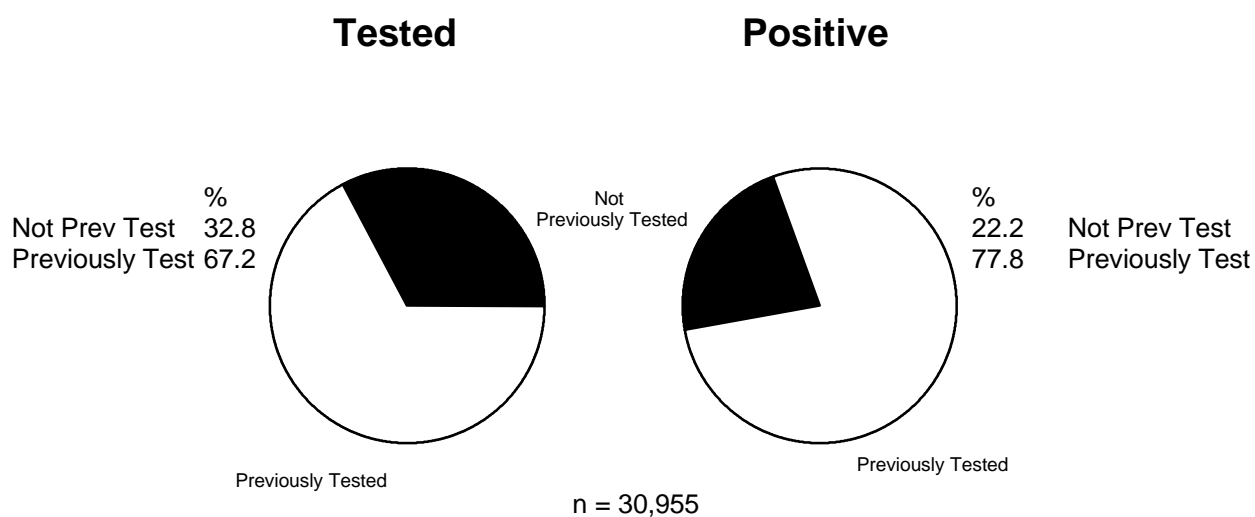
- The 20 –29 yr age group had the highest proportion of tests reported in 1999 (31.0%), while the 30 to 39 yr age group had the largest proportion of positives, 42.2% (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Age group of African American Men HIV Tested and Tested HIV Positive in Texas 1999-2000.



- 67% of the African American men had previously tested, while nearly 78% of the positives have reported previously testing. The proportion of positives who have previously tested, 78%, is slightly greater than the proportion for all men testing in Texas, 70% (Figure 3).

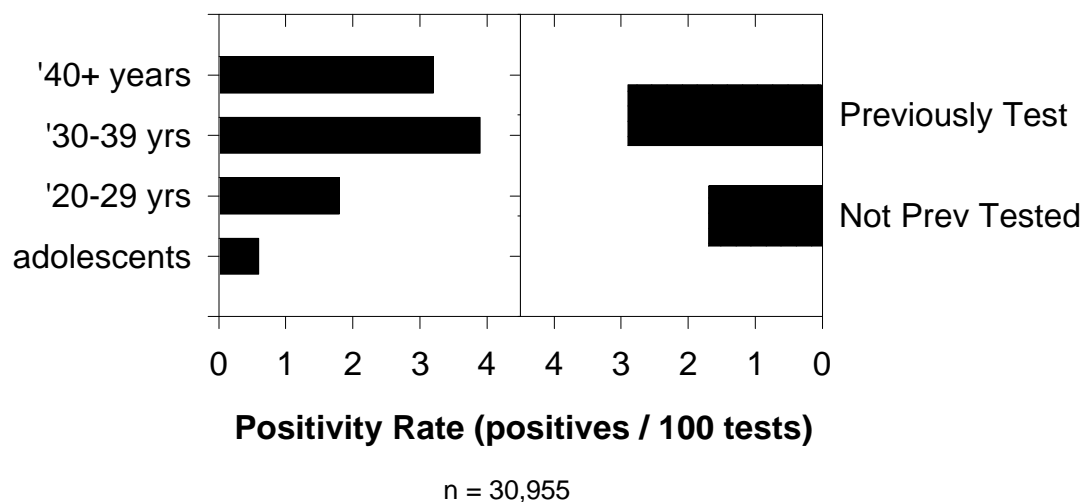
Figure 3. HIV Testing History of African American Men HIV Tested and Tested HIV Positive in Texas 1999-2000.



## Rates of Positivity by Demographics

- The rate of positivity for the African American men, 2.6 positives / 100 tests. In contrast, the positivity rate for men statewide is 1.9 positives / 100 tests. This suggests a significantly greater burden of HIV infection among African American men than in men of other racial/ethnic groups (Figure 4).
- Among age groups, the 30-39 yr and 40+ yr age groups had the highest rates, 3.9 and 4.2 positives / 100 tests, respectively. The rate among African American men 30 – 39 yr is almost 1 positive / 100 tests higher than observed statewide for this age group (3.0 positives / 100 tests).
- The positivity rate for those African American men who have tested previously is over 1% higher than those who are first time testers, 2.9 and 1.7 positives / 100 tests, respectively. This may indicate that individuals who understand the riskiness of their behavior are testing, but may also indicate a lack of currently measurable behavior change in those individuals.

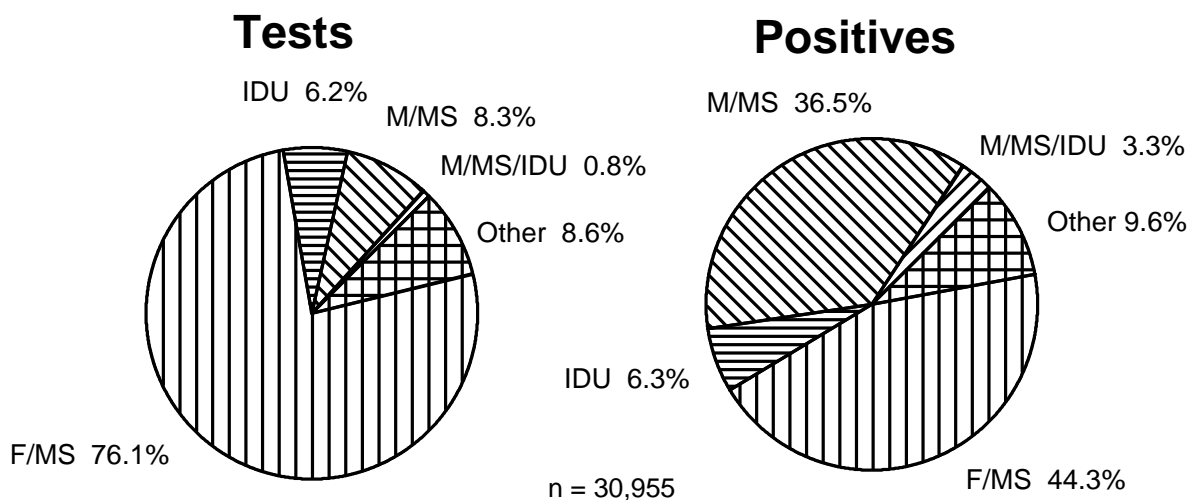
Figure 4. Positivity Rates by Demographic Factors for African American Men HIV Tested in Texas between 1999 and 2000.



## Profile of Individuals Testing and Testing Positive: Behavioral Risk Category

- Among African American men testing, 76% are F/MS, 8% are M/MS, and only 6% report IDU activity in the past year. The proportion of African American Men who report IDU is half the proportion observed for all men counseled in Texas between 1999 and 2000, 12.2% (Figure 5).
- Among F/MS, 3.1% of men reported their sex partner used injection drugs since 1978 and 1.5% had used injection drugs in the past year (data not illustrated).
- 1.7% of African American F/MS men indicated their sex/needle sharing partner tested HIV positive in the previous year.
- Statewide, for men, 7.4% of the positive tests are for IDU similar to the 6.3% in African American men.

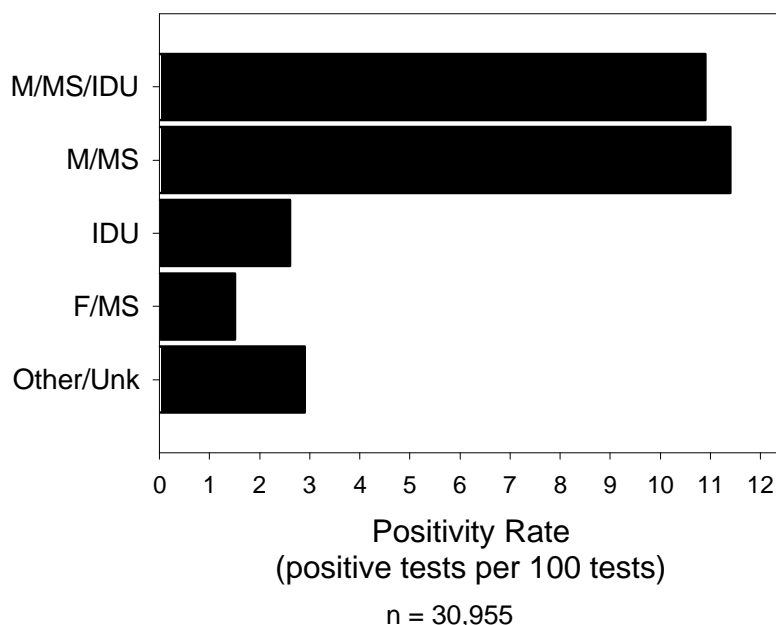
Figure 5. Proportions of HIV Tests and Positive HIV Tests by Behavioral Category for African American Men HIV Tested in Texas between 1999 and 2000.



#### Rates of Positivity by Modes of Exposure

- M/MS/IDU and M/MS have similar positivity rates (number of positives per 100 tests) in African American Men, approximately 11 positives / 100 tests. The rate for men who did not disclose risk activity in the past year and IDU had the next highest positivity rates, 2.9 and 2.6 positives / 100 tests, respectively (Figure 6).
- The positivity rates in African American men are double those observed statewide for men except for the rate in the “other risk” category which is similar to the rate observed for Texas Men in the “other risk” category

Figure 6. Positivity Rate by Behavioral Category for African American Men HIV Tested in Texas between 1999 and 2000.



## Additional Risk Behaviors Reported by African American Men Prevention Counseling Clients in 1999

- 31% of African American men report never using a condom or barrier for vaginal sex (Table 1).
- Approximately half of African American Men report never using a barrier for anal sex. This is 10 to 25% greater condom/barrier use for anal sex than for other men in Texas. 72% of African American M/MS report using a barrier at least sometimes during anal sex.
- 64% of M/MS, 54% of IDU and nearly 70% of F/MS reported never using a barrier for oral sex. These values show slightly better barrier use for oral sex reported for non-African American men in Texas between 1999 and 2000.
- 34% of M/MS/IDU and 24% IDU reported an STD diagnosis in the past year. These proportions are five- and three-times higher, respectively, than reported for non-African American men prevention counseled in Texas. Self-reported STD history for African American F/MS men is 16%, slightly higher than reported by M/MS, but still twice the rate observed for men in all other racial/ethnic groups.
- Two-thirds of M/MS/IDU and between 40 and 50% of M/MS, IDU and of F/MS prevention counseled African American men indicated multiple partners in the past year. This is similar to those proportions reported in all racial/ethnic groups counseled in 1999 and 2000.
- Approximately 35% of African American Men indicated their partner was at risk for HIV due to risky behaviors. This is lower than the proportion reported overall for men in Texas, 42%. 73% of M/MS/IDU reported their partner(s) was at risk for HIV and over 60% of African American M/MS indicated they felt their partner was at risk for HIV infection.
- Participation in sex trade, exchanging sex for drugs, money, lodging or food, was ten times higher in M/MS/IDU than F/MS with 29% of M/MS/IDU prevention counseling clients indicating exchanging sex in the past year. For IDU, this proportion is similar to M/MS/IDU for buying sex, 29%, but significantly lower for selling sex, 13%.
- Greater than 91% of IDU (both M/MS/IDU and IDU) and between 60 and 70% of other risk groups in African American men prevention counseled clients reported drug use during sex in the past year. These values are similar to those reported for all men prevention counseled in Texas in 1999 and 2000.
- Less than 54% of the African American men IDU indicated they had shared injection equipment in the past year. This is a significantly lower value than observed in all IDU Men, 70%.



Table 1. Additional Risk Behaviors Reported by African American Men Prevention Counseling Clients by Behavior category in Texas between 1999 and 2000.

Risk Behavior	African American Men					Non-African American Men
	M/MS/IDU	M/MS	IDU	F/MS	ALL	
Sex with male, past year	100.0	100.0	--	--	9.1	21.7
Sex with female, past year	70.5	44.7	96.7	98.4	85.1	75.6
Never using a barrier, oral sex	53.4	63.7	56.6	71.6	71.5	76.8
Never using a barrier, vaginal sex	24.6	34.2	33.2	30.6	30.9	43.6
Never using a barrier, anal sex	28.2	28.4	38.1	43.7	48.7	37.6
STD diagnosis in past year	34.3	11.9	23.5	16.5	15.3	7.7
Multiple sex/needle partner	66.1	47.5	50.1	43.3	40.5	44.7
Sex/needle partner at risk	72.9	60.1	44.8	35.7	35.5	42.5
Sold sex, past year	29.5	9.1	13.1	2.7	3.9	2.6
Bought sex, past year	29.9	7.5	28.3	9.5	9.9	6.4
Drug use with sex, past year	92.0	61.1	91.1	70.2	64.8	64.4
Sharing injection equipment, past year	57.8		53.2			69.5*

\*IDU only

#### Drugs reported used during sex by African American Men Clients Prevention Counseled in Texas

- Cocaine and alcohol were the primary drugs reported used during sex in the past year for IDU (both M/MS/IDU and IDU), reported by over two-thirds of African American IDU men prevention counseled in 1999 and 2000. This is slightly higher than seen overall for all racial/ethnic categories in IDU Men (Table 2).
- Alcohol was the primary drug reported among M/MS and F/MS, approximately half of men in these behavioral categories reported using alcohol during sex, similar to the proportion reported for all men.
- In IDU, a comparison of drugs used during sex with IDU men statewide indicates that for African American men, heroin use is significantly lower, 31% vs 40% for all IDU non-African American men prevention counseled in Texas. Similarly, amphetamine use is also lower among IDU African American men, 13% vs 31% statewide.
- Among F/MS, African American Men reported similar cocaine use during sex (21%) and greater marijuana use (40%) than reported for all Men, 23 and 31% respectively.
- The proportions of clients who use of all other drugs during sex in African American men are similar to those observed statewide.

Table 2. Proportions of African American Men HIV Prevention Counselor in Texas who reported using a specific drug during sex between 1999 and 2000.

	African American Men					Non-African American Men
	M/MS/IDU	M/MS	IDU	F/MS	ALL	
Heroin	32.3	1.5	31.1	1.8	3.7	8.1
Cocaine	68.5	20.3	64.7	20.9	22.1	23.2
Alcohol	68.1	48.3	65.9	53.7	49.5	52.9
Marijuana	51.0	31.3	46.3	40.5	36.7	31.2
Amphetamines	13.1	1.9	12.3	1.5	2.2	9.3
Inhalants	6.0	2.3	2.9	0.7	1.0	3.8
Other drugs	8.0	2.6	7.1	3.1	3.1	5.2

### Locations where African American Men Access Prevention Counseling

- The primary locations where African American men are access Publicly-funded prevention counseling services are at corrections settings (30%), field visits (18%), and HIV/STD testing sites, 16% (Table 3).
- The proportion of African American men who receive HIV prevention counseling services at HIV/CTS testing sites are about half that observed for all men in Texas. In contrast, the proportion of African American men who access services at corrections settings are 50% higher than observed for all other racial/ethnic categories.

Table 3. Site Type where African American Men Client's were Prevention Counselor in Texas between 1999 and 2000.

Site Type	African American Men		Non-African American Men
	Number Counselor	Percent Counselor	Percent Counselor
HIV/CTS Testing Site	5,141	15.6	27.9
STD Clinic	4,741	14.4	9.7
Drug Treatment Facility	4,586	13.9	12.0
Family Planning Clinic	741	2.3	4.8
Prenatal/OB Clinic	3	0.0	0.0
TB Clinic	26	0.1	0.2
Primary Health Care Facility	859	2.6	2.1
Corrections Setting	9,808	29.8	19.7
Field Visit	5,954	18.1	20.4
Other not identified above	1,076	3.3	3.3

- The Texas Public Health Regions (PHR) where the highest proportions of African American men are prevention counselor are PHR 5 and 6, the regions containing Beaumont and Port Arthur and the region containing Houston and Galveston, respectively (Table 4).
- Most PHR report two- to three- fold proportions of African American men accessing prevention counseling to the proportion of all African American men in that region, This may suggest that publicly funded HIV prevention counseling may be the only access African American men have to HIV prevention and/or testing services.

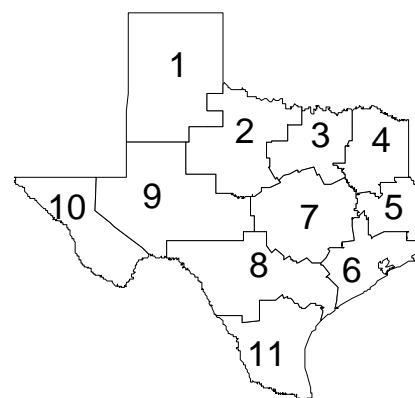
- 93% of all African American men prevention counseled in Texas reside in a county where at least half of its population is in an urban area (urban county).
- 3% of urban clients chose to counsel only and not test, while nearly 9% of clients in counties where greater than half its population is in a rural area (rural county) chose a counseling only option.
- Positivity rates were lower for residents of rural counties, 1.8 positives / 100 tests in rural vs 2.6 positives / 100 tests for residents residing in “urban” counties.
- In PHR 5, nearly half of the men living with HIV or AIDS are African American, while in PHR 3, 4, 6 and 7, between one-quarter and one-third of living HIV or AIDS cases in men are in African Americans. The proportion of men prevention counseled who are African American is similar to the proportion of men with HIV/AIDS who are African American. This may suggest that the proportion of tests for African American men are appropriate for the current state of the epidemic.

Table 4. Public Health Region (PHR) where African American Men were Prevention Counseled in 1999 and 2000 in Texas.

PHR	Number Counseled	Share of Men counseled who are African American	Share of Men in Region who are African American (Population*)	Share of Living HIV and AIDS cases in Men who are African American**
1	1,230	16.1	5.4	13.7
2	285	14.0	6.5	19.2
3	6,479	28.4	11.2	28.8
4	1,802	34.8	16.6	31.3
5	2,577	46.5	17.1	45.0
6	13,526	40.9	15.8	36.4
7	4,419	25.4	11.3	26.6
8	1,147	14.4	5.6	12.4
9	685	14.7	4.4	13.5
10	167	4.5	3.8	5.0
11	523	4.2	1.3	3.1
Texas	32,932	26.8	10.6	30.5

\*EpiGram population data (Texas A&M)

\*\*as of January 23, 2001



### Counseling Outcome

Following the initial and results counseling session, each prevention counselor has the ability to assess the counseling session and indicate whether they feel the client has met CDC guidelines on achieving one of the six basic outcomes outlined below.

- Approximately 76% of African American men leave a counseling session with an improved perception of risk. This is approximately a 10% higher proportion reported by non-African American men, 66% (Table 5).
- Approximately 80% of African American men develop a risk reduction plan as part of their counseling session. These proportions are similar to those seen for non-African American men.

- Approximately 75% of African American men have an enhanced understanding of the benefits of testing following the counseling session(s). These proportions are similar to those observed for all men prevention counseled in Texas in 1999 and 2000.
- Nearly half of African American men prevention counseled in 1999 and 2000 left the counseling session with an enhanced understanding of the benefits of partner elicitation. This is similar to statewide proportions for men.
- Slightly greater than 40% of African American men reported an intention to discuss risk behaviors with their partners, a proportion similar to reports for non-African American men.
- Over two-thirds of African American men prevention counseled indicated an intention to change their risk behaviors. These are similar to proportions reported for all men prevention counseled in Texas.

Table 5. Counseling Outcome for African American Men HIV Prevention Counseled in Texas between 1999 and 2000.

	African American Men				Non-African American Men	
	M/MS/IDU	M/MS	IDU	F/MS	All	
<i>Proportion of clients who's counselor has reported a specific outcome of the counseling session</i>						
Improved perception of risk	70.6	73.9	70.7	76.4	75.5	65.5
Risk reduction plan developed	79.2	78.7	84.0	84.3	83.4	82.1
Enhanced understanding of the benefits of testing	72.9	75.1	74.6	76.4	75.8	78.6
Enhanced understanding of the benefits of partner elicitation	52.3	46.1	53.0	49.8	49.1	48.8
Intention to talk with partner about risk activities	38.0	40.1	43.0	42.9	42.2	43.6
Intention to change behavior	64.3	62.1	70.8	67.2	66.3	68.0

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